

where Indians represented large or swing constituencies. Kevin Gover (who became Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs at Interior in 1996) and Michael Anderson (who has served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs since early 1995) were among the leaders of this group. Both men had been active in Indian legal and political issues in the past. NACG remained active on a reduced level after the 1992 general election.

As compared to this electoral organizing, far less work had been done historically on the national level to court Indian political contributions. One obvious reason was the relative poverty of many Indian tribes. Indian gaming altered the financial landscape of Indian country, however, equipping several tribes to participate in state and national politics through financial support of candidates and parties. By early 1995, only a few tribes had distinguished themselves as substantial supporters of either state or federal candidates and parties, or both. Some of the tribes opposed to the Hudson casino proposal were already regular supporters of their congressional representatives and state Democratic parties – either through tribal contributions, PAC giving, or donations from tribal leaders personally.²¹¹ No tribe in the country, however, had developed a contribution record to rival that of the Mashantucket Pequots of Ledyard, Conn.

Having only opened their Foxwoods Resort Casino in February 1992, by early 1995 the Pequots were a major force in political finance. In both 1992 and 1993, the tribe made \$100,000 contributions to the DNC. In 1994, the Pequots contributed \$250,000 directly to the DNC and an additional \$500,000 to a variety of state Democratic parties through the DNC’s “directed donors”

²¹¹See Section II.J.6., *infra*, for a summary and evaluation of opponent tribal contributions.